UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5

DATE: August 24, 2001

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities Ending on August 17, 2001

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Thomas V. Skinner
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and stakeholder feedback:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Response, Parchment Paper Company Spill, West Carrollton, Ohio

On August 13-14, 2001, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Renninger, Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START), Dayton Hazardous Materials (Haz-Mat) Team, and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency responded to a 5,000-gallon sodium hydroxide spill in West Carrollton, Ohio. The spill originated at the Parchment Paper Company, and entered Owl Creek and eventually the Great Miami River near Dayton, Ohio. Response activities by the potentially responsible party (PRP) contractor included the removal of 9,000 gallons of contaminated water from the confluence of Owl Creek and the Great Miami River. Elevated pH levels were initially documented as high as 12. Following removal activities, the pH levels were at background levels.

Contact: Steven Renninger (513-569-7539)

Response, Residential Voluntary Mercury Removal, Chicago, Illinois

On August 6, 2001 a concerned Chicago resident was referred to the Emergency Response Branch by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) for assistance in cleaning up a

mercury spill. As a result of the early August 2001 rains, the basement of a home on Elmdale street had been flooded. In the process of cleaning the basement, an antique barometer had been broken resulting in a spill of mercury approximately the size of a quarter. Since the house was currently being remodeled and not being used as a primary residence, the owners requested technical information from U.S EPA in completing a voluntary cleanup. After the cleanup had occurred, on August 16, 2001, U.S. EPA performed post cleanup monitoring using a Lumex mercury analyzer to determine if recommended cleanup goals had been met. The monitoring indicated that all mercury levels were well below the recommended cleanup levels and that the voluntary cleanup had been a success.

Contact: Callie Bolattino (312-353-3490)

Administrative Complaint Filed, B.F. Goodrich Company, Akron, Ohio

On August 10, 2001, U.S. EPA filed an Administrative Complaint against B.F. Goodrich Company, Akron, Ohio. The Complaint alleges a violation of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 103. On January 12, 2000, at 8:42 am, the facility had a 1,125 pound release of 1,3-Butadiene a hazardous substance under CERCLA with a reportable quantity of 10 pounds. B.F. Goodrich Company called the National Response Center on January 12, 2000, at 11:57 am. B.F. Goodrich Company is in compliance with Sections 311 and 312 of Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). The proposed penalty in the complaint is $17,532.10. B.F. Goodrich Company will have 30 days to respond to the Complaint.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

Site Assessment, Energy Lease Services, Dale, Illinois

On August 15, 2001, U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Barbi Lee, Karen Vendl, and Kevin Turner; U.S. EPA Health Physicist (HP) Jim Mitchell; and, Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) contractors conducted a site assessment at the Energy Lease Services Site in Dale, Hamilton County, Illinois. The site consists of a tank battery, an in-ground oil pit, an in-ground concrete bunker, and other miscellaneous pails and containers. There is also a sand filter system at the facility.

Samples were taken of the oil from the in-ground oil pit, concrete bunker, and accessible tank to be sent to a lab for

analysis. HP Jim Mitchell conducted an initial radiation survey of the property and determined that there are elevated levels of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) at the facility. Samples were then collected from the sand filter system and in various location throughout the facility to determine the extent of NORM contamination at the site. These samples were brought to Argonne National Laboratory to be analyzed.

Contacts: Barbi Lee (312-886-5296)
Karen Vendl (312-886-7194)
Jim Mitchell (312-353-9537)

Status Update (Congressman Manzullo and SMART Team Principals), Savanna Army Depot Activity Superfund Site, Savanna, Illinois

On August 7, 2001, the Strategic Management, Analysis, Requirements & Technology (SMART) Team for the Savanna Army Depot Activity Superfund site in Savanna, Illinois, met to provide an update of the Team's efforts over the past year. The SMART Team is a partnering initiative where stakeholders meet once a month. At the request of U.S. Congressman Donald Manzullo, the SMART Team was formed under a signed Partnership Charter one year ago in an attempt to bring stakeholders together to resolve issues relating to the investigation and remediation of unexploded ordnance (UXO). Attendees included: Congressman Manzullo, current Principal signatories of the Charter (Bill Muno, Director, Superfund Division; Geoffry Prosch, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations and Environment); William Child, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Land, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency; Nita Fuller, Regional Chief of Refuges, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and, Brent Manning, Director, Illinois Department of Natural Resources), representatives from the offices of both U.S. Senators (Fitzgerald and Durbin), and elected State and local officials. The Congressman stated to the public that the Team has met or exceeded his expectations to date, and that the members of the Team were national leaders in attempting to resolve the issues surrounding UXO.

The re-evaluation of the historical artillery range fans was one of the more significant Team accomplishments and resulted in the removal of approximately 4500 acres from the areas of concern. As a result, and in response to public pressure, including a petition with 1,400 signatures, the Army has announced plans to allow public access to the majority of the backwater slough areas of the Mississippi River once the ongoing installation of a buoy system to prevent access to burning grounds and open detonation areas in the backwater slough areas is complete.

Contact: David Seely (312-886-7058)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Upgrading of FOIA Database Log, Chicago, Illinois

Another milestone has been reached in efforts to further streamline the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) process in the Superfund Division. The Documents Management Section's (DMS) tracking and monitoring database, FOIALOG, was recently upgraded. This project was supervised by Dr. Carolyn Bohlen, with the assistance of Mary Thomas, Portrice Vernon, Tipon Feliciano, and Arnie Cena of the DMS. Doug Zamastil of the Program Management and Information Section was the technical advisor for the project. The Volpe National Transportation Systems in cooperation with the above-mentioned staff were responsible for the development of the FOIALOG 3.0 database.

Over the years the Superfund Division (SFD) has served as the lead in processing all Region 5 Combined Billing FOIA costs. This information is maintained in the FOIALOG database. The Combined Billing module has been expanded to incorporate all Region 5 Office/Division FOIA Coordinators and their backups. Therefore, the FOIALOG database is no longer exclusive to DMS users.

Additional features of the FOIALOG version 3.0 include: security, letter creation, and general inquiries. Updated modules include: follow-up/extensions, restructure tabs, maintenance items, records purge, and simplified workflow modules. FOIALOG 3.0 training was provided for Regional users August 6-8, 2001.

The installation of the database system also took place at that time and is expected to be fully operational by October 1, 2001.

Contact: Shirley Smith (312-353-9173)

International Assistance, Thailand

During the first two weeks of August 2001, John Elkmann, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP), was part of a three-person U.S. EPA team to Thailand in support of emergency planning and response activities. Ann Whelan of Region 5 Superfund and On-Scene Coordinator Michael Szerlog of Region 10 pursued an independent assignment. Mr. Elkmann's assignment was to link databases, created using U.S. EPA's CAMEO software, for

facilities that present a significant potential hazard to the community to locational data available in an independent geographic information system (GIS). This data exists for seven provinces in the greater Bangkok area. A number of issues, some programmatic, some cross-cultural, prevented completion of the assignment. Plans are in place to address these issues. A continuing bilateral effort over the next several months should resolve the issues and result in stronger databases than those originally visualized.

Contact: John Elkmann (312-353-8196)

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Thanks (Joseph Dufficy), Brownfields 2001 Booth, Chicago, Illinois

On August 16, 2001, an email of thanks from Robert Springer, Director, Waste, Pesticides and Toxics Division (WPTD), to Joseph Dufficy, Chief, Brownfields and Early Action Section, included the following (RCRA is the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act):

"Ann Wentz of my staff advised me today that you've decided to give WPTD one of your booths at the conference. I want to thank you for your generous gesture and promise you that we will put it to good use educating the public on the RCRA role in brownfields. This is a great gesture by our cousins in waste management."

Contact: Joseph Dufficy (312-886-1960)

cc: Barry Breen (OECA)
Steve Luftig (OSWER)
Larry Reed (OERR)
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)
Craig Beasley (OSWER)
Michael Shapiro (OSWER)
Sylvia Lowrance (OECA)
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors
ORA State Coordinators
Regional Team Managers